



SPONSERED BY THE VERMONT COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nominations must be postmarked by:
Thursday, February 25th, 2010

Return to:
**Vermont Commission on National
and Community Service**
103 South Main Street
1st Floor, 4 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-0204

Email: Emily.Trantum@ahs.state.vt.us
Fax: (802) 241-4461
www.VTCNCS.Vermont.gov

VERMONT COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Improving Vermonters' Lives Through Voluntary Service

The Vermont Commission on National and Community Service (VT CNCS) is proud to host the 2010 Governor's Awards for Outstanding Community Service in partnership with Governor Jim Douglas. VT CNCS is comprised of 15 bipartisan, governor-appointed individuals and four staff who work to promote, support, and recognize volunteerism and community service throughout Vermont. VT CNCS serves as a catalyst for positive social change; working with AmeriCorps and community partners to meet critical needs in Vermont.

THE AWARDS

Purpose

The Governor's Awards for Outstanding Community Service will honor individuals, groups, and businesses that best exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and community service in Vermont. The Awards for Outstanding Community Service will be presented in spring of 2010 at a ceremony held in the National Life building located in Montpelier. The date will be announced shortly.

Nomination Criteria

1. Any community volunteer, volunteer group, business, or national service participant can be nominated.
2. Individuals who receive a salary for service are not eligible unless nominated as part of the Service Learning or Business/Corporate categories.
3. Individuals who participate and who may receive a living allowance, stipend, or education award under the Corporation for National and Community Service programs are eligible for a National Service Program Participant award. Programs include: AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps National, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, and Senior Service Corps (RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companion).
4. Individuals who receive small stipends for service rendered through local/state public service organizations (fire, rescue, local/regional/state government agencies) may be nominated for an individual award.
5. Persons or businesses nominated should normally have carried out their service activities for at least 12-month duration with significant activity occurring in 2009. Include specific information on how and when the activity began.
6. Staff and Commissioners of the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service or staff of programs which receive funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service are not eligible to make nominations or receive an award.
7. Previous recipients of the Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Service are not eligible to receive an award.

Please note staff and review committee reserve the right to reassign a nomination to a more appropriate category. (Nominators will be contacted for approval).

AWARDS CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

Youth Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes a youth (grade K-12) who has demonstrated significant contributions to volunteer efforts/programs. The nominee should serve as a model and inspiration to other volunteers.

Adult Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes an individual who has met a community need in an innovative and effective manner. The nominee may have demonstrated exceptional service above self that has made a great impact through changed lives and/or community conditions as a result of service efforts.

Group Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes a group of individuals, who come together on their own to make a difference in their community. This may be a one-time service project or ongoing effort.

Family Volunteer Service Award: Recognizes a family who has met a community need in an innovative and effective manner. The nominees may have demonstrated together as a family exceptional service that has made a great impact through changed lives and/or community conditions as a result of combined service efforts.

National Service Award: Recognizes an individual member and/or group of members of a National Service program including AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps National, and AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, Senior Service Corps (RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companion) who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service above and beyond the requirements of the designated program.

Business/Corporate Award: Recognizes a business that has made a substantial impact through innovation, employee volunteer programs, volunteer hours, number of volunteers, monetary support, etc. This may recognize the historical record of supporting volunteerism through policies and practices. The nomination must be able to demonstrate ongoing community or statewide impact.

Service Learning Award: Recognizes outstanding service-learning teaching practices by educational instructors, teachers, professors, faculty, and staff. The nominee may have engaged or influenced students to be involved in community service or service-learning through modeling, influence, or instruction.

Vermont Lifetime Achievement Award: Recognizes a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and community service at a variety of levels. The nominees must have made a substantial and sustained impact in the community as a result of their service efforts. National Service Participants that meet the criteria are also eligible for this category.

NOMINATION PROCESS AND REVIEW

The following five criteria will be used in reviewing and judging the nominations, and the nominator must present quantifiable objective evidence that the nominee's service meets these:

1. **Achievement-** The nomination must reflect the actual accomplishment achieved through voluntary or national service - what got done?
2. **Community Need-** The service performed must address community or human needs – please describe.
3. **Special Aspects-** The nomination must reflect the special aspects of the nominee's community service.
4. **Ongoing Involvement-** The community service must be ongoing rather than a one-time activity, with the exception of outstanding service for crisis situations which might be short-term.
5. **Impact-** Nominees should have directly improved the lives of Vermonters. Document evidence of the impact. What was the result or what has been changed as a result of the community service?

Nominations will be evaluated by a review committee representing diverse backgrounds in service and volunteerism.

THE NOMINATION

- Fill out the official nomination form completely.
- Attach a statement of 500 words or less describing the nominee's activities and address each of the criteria listed above.
- **Double space and use 12-point type for the 500-word statement.**
- **Provide an electronic format copy (include disk or email Emily.Trantum@ahs.state.vt.us) of the nomination statement if possible, a confirmation email will be sent in a timely manner.**
- Remember to double check neatness, spelling, and grammar before submitting.
- Up to five pages (front and back) of supporting print materials may be included in addition to the official nominating form and statement.
- All submitted materials become the property of the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service and will not be returned.
- If you have any questions please contact the VT CNCS at 802-241-4244.

NOMINATION FORM

Please print clearly or type in the space below:

Award Categories (check only one):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> National Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont Lifetime Achievement |

Individual or Group Nominee:

Name _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Program Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Nominator:

Name _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Relationship to Nominee _____

Verification: Please list two references who can verify the scope and extent of the nominee's community service activity. These persons should not be the nominator or relatives of the nominee or nominator.

Name: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Name: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Summary: Please provide a short summary describing the nominee's community service activity and achievement.
